Contacting Me
The best way to contact me is through email. I generally will respond to email within 24 hours, except on the weekends. I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. I highly encourage you to come to me with your questions and concerns at any point that you need the assistance. I am very good at answering email and many of your questions could probably be answered in that way. For more complicated concerns, I encourage you to drop by my office hours or make an appointment so we can discuss whatever it is that is causing you to struggle. I advise you to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester – the more time we have to address it – the more likely it is we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is little I can usually do to help at that point.

Course Description: General Psychology provides an overview to the fundamental areas and concepts in Psychology. Topics include methods of psychology, biological processes, learning and memory, personality and abnormal psychology, and social psychology.

Course Description Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes for this course will include the students’ ability to:

- Describe psychological theories, principles and concepts relevant to the following topics: history and methods, biological bases of behavior, cognition, social behavior, personality, and psychopathology.
- Apply basic psychological principles to current events and daily human experience.
- Understand the ways that psychological phenomena influence health.
- Understand the scientific principles that underlie psychological research.
**Course Requirements:**

*Real World Psychology* by Karen Huffman and Catherine Sanderson (2nd ed)

Wiley Plus (access included with text) is an online student class support system. As such, it is designed to provide you with supplemental lessons, videos, and exercises that are designed to help you master the material. More importantly, Wiley Plus allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. Wiley Plus is REQUIRED for this section of General Psychology.

**Blackboard:** This course will use Blackboard. Please check it regularly, as announcements will be posted there, as well as any changes to the syllabus or assignments. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your Internet Service Provider.

**EXAMS:** You will take 4 exams during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings and will consist of multiple choice questions. These exams will be given IN CLASS on the scheduled exam days (See Weekly Syllabus). The average of the four exams will make up 50% of your grade.

**FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:**
In addition to the four required exams, there will also be a final comprehensive exam (FCE) on the assigned final exam date. Please note that this exam will be given IN CLASS on the finals date assigned to this class. You may choose to take the FCE to replace your lowest exam performance. It cannot hurt you to take the FCE, if you do worse on the FCE than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the FCE. **If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the FCE to replace the missed exam grade; there will be no make-up exams.**

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**
Note: All assignments must completed by the assigned due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Weekly Homework, in-class activities, and pop attendance quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments are graded and will count toward your final course grade. Pop quizzes are typically worth 5 points each, while homework and class activities are typically worth 10-20 points each with some worth more that require more time and effort. Although the exact total of assignments may vary, the amount toward your final grade will be 20%.
READING QUIZZES:
There is ample literature to suggest that reading prior to coming to class helps you master course material more efficiently and at a quicker pace. To accomplish this – you will have reading quizzes assigned for EVERY chapter we are covering. These will be due the weekend before we start the new chapter we. Reading quizzes will be posted in advance on Blackboard as well as on the class calendar. This will account for 15% of your grade.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CULTURE:
This will be a journal assignment that you work on the entire semester that will allow you to explore different dimensions about culture through scripted conversations with your peers. More details will be provided in class and on Blackboard at a later date. Your 3 culture journals plus your final reflective write up will be worth 15% of your grade.

YOUR GRADE:

50%  Exam average = _____ * .50
20%  Homework/Activities = _____ * .20
15%  Conversations About Culture = _____ * 15
15%  Reading quizzes = _____ * .15

100% Total= Exams + Homework/Activities + Journals + Reading Quizzes

90-100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
less than 60% = F

Expectations

Class will start on time every day, and you should expect it to run the full period. Please avoid disturbing other students (by arriving late, leaving early, talking with a neighbor, etc.). Make sure that your electronic devices are turned off.

I expect students to make every effort to attend each class. Should you find it necessary to miss class, please note that you will be held responsible for all material covered during the missed class. It will be your responsibility to speak with a classmate about the course content you missed.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **Friday, April, 5th** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either
(a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in 0 on the assignment and further action may be taken depending on the severity.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.
Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
### Course Calendar (Tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/The Biological Perspective</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>The Biological Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Sensation</td>
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<td>Exam #1 (Thursday – Feb 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Perception/Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Learning, Memory</td>
<td>6,7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Memory/Cognition</td>
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<td>Exam #2 (Thursday – March 7)</td>
<td>7,8</td>
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<td>Mar 11-15</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Cognition/Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Exam #3 (Thursday – April 4) Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy/Social Psychology</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>Social Psychology/Wrap Up</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Exam #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Week</td>
<td>Optional Comprehensive Exam</td>
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